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BACKGROUNDER

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WEST LAFAYETTE FIRE STATION NO. 3

City of West Lafayette plans to construct its third fire station in 2007

Why a New Fire Station. The city annexed 1,173 acres in August 2006, including 778 single-family home lots approved for construction, and must begin providing fire protection to the area this August. Existing Fire Station No. 1, 300 North St., and Fire Station No. 2, 531 Navajo, are too far away to serve the area; relocating either one of the stations would not provide adequate coverage of the full city.

Proposed Site. Near the northwest corner of Kalberer Road and Soldiers' Home Road.

The Project. Purchase of 2.5 acres of land; construction of an approximately 7,000-square-foot, \$2.4 million fire station; cost for land, construction and equipment: \$3 million to \$3.5 million.

Site Selection Study. In-depth needs analysis, identification of potential sites and evaluation of pros and cons of each site conducted by fire chief Phil Drew and city engineer David Buck; meetings held with various property owners; most viable site selected. City determined Kalberer Road/Soldiers' Home Road as optimal because:

- Good response time to all areas served
- Emergency exit to Kalberer Road; non-emergency access via Soldiers' Home Road
- Cross coverage with Fire Station No. 2 possible
- The land is now vacant, so no existing buildings or homes have to be destroyed
- Infrastructure to the lot is in place.

Fire Station No. 3 Service. Fire service will begin August 17 at a temporary facility on the site. A new fire truck is on order; three firefighters will staff the station. Construction of Fire Station No. 3 is slated for June groundbreaking and yearend 2007 completion.

Land Acquisition/Rezoning

- Maple Ridge Community Church currently owns a vacant 8-acre parcel, including the 2.5 acres selected for the fire station.
- Maple Ridge Community Church will swap that site with Lindberg Properties LLC (principals: John Scheumann and Derrin Sorenson) for a 20-acre site near 75 East and Soldiers' Home Road.
- The City of West Lafayette will petition for a rezone of the 8-acre site from R1 (residential) to PDNR (planned development). The planned development will include three residential lots along Westmoreland Drive; the fire station; and, on the corner, a 4-acre site for neighborhood shops. All buildings would be constructed in complementary architectural styles suitable for a neighborhood; shop type, lighting levels, hours of operation and parking would be stipulated.